TIMBER TALK

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODEN MONEY COLLECTORS

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 7 JULY 2004

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CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODEN MONEY COLLECTORS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

This annual general meeting will take place in conjunction with the annual Canadian Numismatic Association convention to be held on ***Sunday July 11th, 2004*** at the Holiday Inn Select (near the Toronto Airport). Our president *Norm Belsten* will preside over the meeting, *the business part of which will begin **after** the breakfast portion.*

Everyone is invited and welcome regardless of whether you attend the breakfast or not. ***Please do not feel that you have to buy a ticket to the breakfast in order to attend this meeting***. The meeting always features the distribution of many 'woods', from various members, specifically issued for the annual meeting along with an auction of various materials. Plan to attend. I'm sure you will enjoy the fun, casual atmosphere.

People issuing 'woods' for this convention are asked to ensure that all people attending the breakfast and/or only the business portion of the meeting receive the 'woods' to be distributed. Hope to see you there.

SATURDAY "SWAP MEET" OR "RENDEZVOUS":

If you peruse the program itinerary for the upcoming C.N.A. convention, you will notice that on ***Saturday, July 10th, 2004 at 11:30 am to 1:00 pm,*** there is listed **'S.O.C. of CAWMC Rendezvous at Foyer Table'**. This time slot has been set aside for a get- together of 'woodies' to swap, buy, trade or whatever. I'm told that rather than in the foyer, there will be a room available. This information will obviously be available in the foyer.

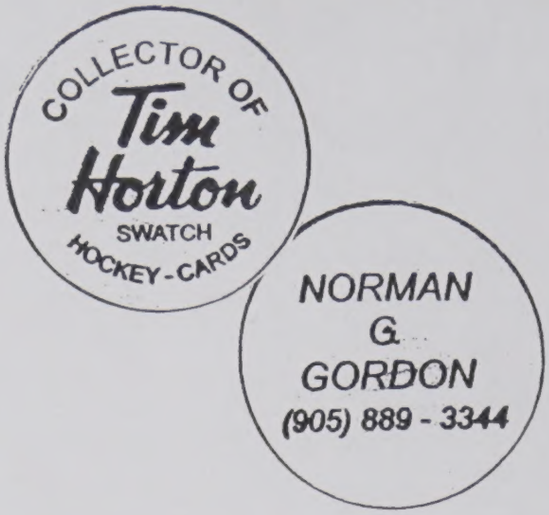
Everyone is welcome. Bring your traders etc. If you are only attending the convention on the Saturday, and won't be back for the annual meeting on the Sunday, please make a special effort to attend this session. It will be an opportunity for you to distribute any 'woods' that you might have and to also pick up woods that will be passed out by others at the Sunday meeting.

This is a casual event with no set agenda. It's just another chance to get together with other interested 'wood' collectors. We will see you there.

MATERIAL NEEDED: This editor desperately needs material. Please !!!

NEW WOOD:

This is a recently issued wood by ***Norm Gordon*** from the North York area of Toronto. As you might expect, Norm Gordon collects 'Tim Horton' paraphernalia as well as other things. I'm informed that no more of these woods is available. The **'Tim Horton'** name is red in colour. All of the other printing (both sides) is blue.



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CAWMC OFFICERS

President: NORM BELSTEN
Vice-President: DAVE GILLESPIE
Secretary-Treasurer and Membership Chairman: AL MUNRO
Past-President and Chairman of the Board of Governors: EARL SALTERIO
Elected Members of the Board of Governors:
BOB BROWN, RUSSELL BROWN,
WAYNE GILLCASH, LOU VESH
JAMES WILLISTON.

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Editor: ROSS KINGDON
Fund Raiser: LOU VESH
Auction Coordinator: AL MUNRO

DUES: Membership dues in the Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors are:

Canadian Residents: $10.00 Canadian Funds
United States Residents: $10.00 U.S. Funds
International Members Rate (outside of Canada and U.S.): $20.00 Canadian Funds
Youth (16 years of age and under): $5.00

Dues paid to Mr. Al Munro, Box 2643 Stn. 'M', Calgary, AB, Canada T2P 3C1

FREE WOOD OF THE MONTH

This month's free wood has again been provided by CAWMC member ***John Regitko*** courtesy of the ***Canadian Numismatic Association***. This wood, while similar (one side) to last month's wood, has the official logo for the upcoming C.N.A. convention to be held in Toronto July 8th to 11th, 2004. The CN Tower, in the logo, recently celebrated a 28th birthday. Thank you John and to the C.N.A. The wood was made by Norm Belsten and is blue in colour on both sides.

TIME FOR CHANGE: *by R. Kingdon (Editor)*

Here I am writing this rambling letter and it is pouring rain outside. We've had our share of rain this spring where I live. Maybe that, in some way, reflects the tone of this letter. I am not very good at writing letters or even putting thoughts into words, like so many of our past editors are, namely *Garry Braunwarth* and *Lou Vesh*, but here goes anyway. Maybe another reason for this disjointed mess is that I haven't got a damn thing in my folder to publish this month.

I have been a member of CAWMC for some twenty-seven years now and admittedly a not very active collector member until about 13 or 14 years ago. In those early years as a member, family and career obviously got in the way of me being actively involved with CAWMC and 'wood' collecting. Then one day, in the late 1980's, I happened to meet Norm Belsten on the bourse floor at the old Lakeshore Inn, in Toronto, at a TICF show run by John Regitko. Norm gave me some advice and tips on buying some 'woods' that I was about to purchase from a dealer. He also invited me to the S.O.C. of CAWMC meeting that was to be held later that day. That was the beginning of a much more serious period of collecting 'woods' for me. It was also the beginning of me being *ACTIVE* in this hobby. Because of me being more actively involved with other collectors, the hobby became much more alive and interesting for me. Today I look forward to going to 'wood' meetings and coin conventions, not just to get the new woods that might be available but also to meet any new collectors and to see again, old and not so old acquaintances. It's great to acquire a new or old wood but I find that it is the people that make this hobby so much fun and enjoyable for me.

I guess I was enjoying the hobby so much that in a weak moment in late 1994, I said I'd take on this job as editor. At the time, I didn't realize how much of a *'job'* it really was to be. This task has been very rewarding, to say the least, as I have been able to correspond with so many people in Canada, the U.S.A. and Britain, most of whom I have never met but would very much like to do so. This editor's job, however, over the last almost ten years, has been fraught with many hours of extreme frustration. My life virtually goes 'on hold' for the last week of every month in order to get something that resembles a newsletter, out to our current membership. With each month now, it becomes even more frustrating for me.

I, from time to time, have perused old newsletters and I marvel at the number of articles sent in to past editors from members all over Canada and the U.S.A. No doubt a reason for that might have been that during some of those times, there were so many new 'woods' being discovered or issued that there was more 'wood' action. Overall it seemed like our membership was more actively involved in reporting their discoveries and writing down their thoughts for all to read and enjoy. Maybe it is just my perception, and past editors will probably disagree with me on this, but material for a newsletter did not seem to be in such short supply.

In the past there were pages and pages of mail auctions in which the membership actively participated. The last mail auction published, in my time as editor, saw five people involved in the two pages of good 'woods' offered for sale.

I think most people would agree that a regular newsletter is of utmost importance for a hobby to be healthy, as it is like a lifeline or 'the glue that binds' the membership. I know that I look forward to receiving the other regular newsletters that I receive from the other organizations to which I belong, so I assume others do as well. (I also *read* the newsletters that I receive.)

TIME FOR CHANGE:- *continued from page three*

This editor is beginning to feel extremely guilty about this CAWMC newsletter. What do I put into it that will keep people informed and interested? I get very little feedback from the membership and that leads me to believe that this newsletter is therefore just 'taken for granted' and that people are just happy that someone else is doing it. Why? It has been my experience that the more one gets involved with something, the more satisfaction one reaps from it. I guess that's why at the time, I decided to give this job a try.

For me now, however, this job has become a somewhat thankless, time-consuming, and a very worrisome task. I am not blessed with the ability to 'dream up' a newsletter nor do I have the time. I do not have anything more than basic computer skills nor do I have any present interest in becoming much more computer literate. (I can only admire what Garry Braunwarth must have had to go through in order to produce a newsletter.) So many times, I have been bailed out by my sons, who know a little bit about computers, but who now live nowhere near me. There are times when I have to force myself to sit in front of a computer screen for more than an hour at a time. My satisfaction in life does not come from sitting in front of a computer. My time, since retirement is now mostly consumed and enjoyed outside by farming, cycling, hiking, gardening and at the cottage. I also love to read. I rue the day when I will be unable to do the active things that I currently do now, knowing full well that that day will eventually come.

It is because of these things that I feel strongly that it is time for someone else as your editor in order to hopefully inject some new life and motivation into the task.

I will continue to ramble on with this letter!

A second factor that I feel is so important for this hobby to be more fully enjoyed, is to have some kind of a listing of what is available to collect in a hobby like ours. We have this. This is due, in no small way, thanks to people like the late Norm Wells, John Curtis and Howard Richardson all of whom either started a catalogue or continued a catalogue of known 'woods'. We now have the current Norm Belsten catalogue which has incorporated the information from the previous catalogues. I personally use Norm's catalogue, all the time, when working on my collection. I don't know what I'd do without it.

There are so many people that have given so much, in the past, to this hobby and there are some who still give so much but there is *noone*, in the past dozen or so years, who has given or done more for this hobby than *Norm Belsten*. It seems that he spends half his time working on 'wooden money'. Norm has spent weeks, months, years keeping our listing current. He has just recently produced a *picture* catalogue of Ontario 'woods'. He didn't just produce this document overnight. He is currently working on a picture catalogue for the rest of the Canadian provinces. His computer knowledge amazes me and intimidates me. His dedication to this hobby is presently unmatched. Questions? Why did so few copies of this picture catalogue sell? Why do so few of his supplement updates, produced at least every two years, get sold? I guess our hobby's collectors don't use a catalogue.

Since taking over as the editor of 'Timber Talk' in January of 1995, I have been blessed with donations of 'free woods' from many different people, for inclusion in the newsletter.

-continued on page five

TIME FOR CHANGE:- *-continued from page 4*

(Now would you believe it, at this point in typing this letter, I left the computer after completing two pages, and took a break. I walked down to the mailbox to get my mail. On this very day, in my mail, was another large package of 'free woods' for our membership. This package was shipped from CAWMC member Les Copan of Surrey, British Columbia. Thanks, Les. It's times like this that provide that little extra motivation and feeling that all this *is* worthwhile.)

As I was about to say, there has never been a shortage of 'free woods' for me to distribute with the newsletters. So many people have donated. Some few people have donated so many. You know who you are and to everyone I am indebted. I sincerely thank you all. Maybe receiving this free wood is the only reason some renew their membership each year. Acquiring the 'free wood' alone almost covers the cost of a yearly membership. Many of these 'free woods' are newly issued woods.

Mailing 'free woods' has always been a frustrating problem because of breakage by the post office machinery. The 'once a year mailing', in December, in a protective, cardboard container, made by Lou Vesh, is great but more costly (not for the Association) and also much more time consuming. I, however, see no other alternative.

Finally, as this has to end somewhere, this past year has seen the start of something that, in my opinion, is long overdue. Past President Earl Salterio initiated the process with his 'Food For Thought' letter back in November 2003. Our Past Presidents and I believe, other Deserving Members will be recognized, in the future, as they rightfully should. This issue has already been fully supported in several letters already published in 'Timber Talk'. Those contributing to this hobby deserve appropriate recognition. In doing so, let's just make sure that we recognize those people who have, over the years, ***really*** contributed to this hobby.

So, to all you aspiring editors out there, let's hear from you. Your executive, I'm sure, would appreciate it, if this newsletter is to continue. Everything belonging to CAWMC can be quickly organized and passed on to the newly appointed editor. I look forward to seeing many of you at our annual general meeting at the upcoming C.N.A. convention in Toronto. Happy collecting.

Can someone answer these questions for me?
Does CAWMC have a constitution and/or bylaws? If so, I'd like to see and read them.

What is the purpose of a 'Board of Governors'?

Do we have official minutes of past annual meetings?

Has collecting 'woods' evolved from a 'hobby attitude' to a 'business attitude'?

What changes need to be made in order to revitalize this hobby?

Would anyone really care about receiving a newsletter if there was no 'free wood' in it?

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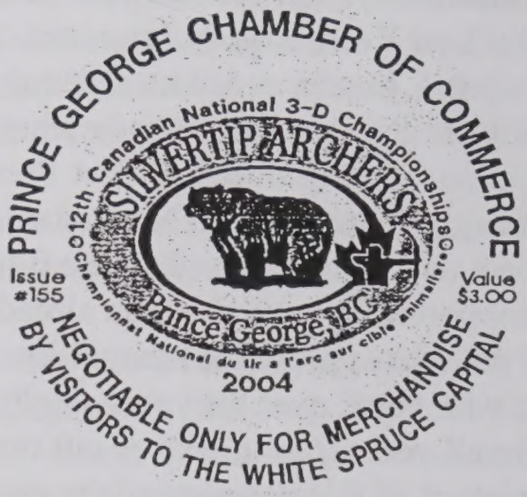

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